

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. A system for distributing access to materials on a network, comprising:

a plurality of alphanumeric sequences each including a password component and a certificate identifier component; and

a network including:

a server storing content for at least one specific location on the network where a period of usage time can be redeemed with at least one of the plurality of alphanumeric sequences, the server allowing a consumer to access the at least one specific location when at least one of the plurality of alphanumeric sequences is presented to the network, wherein the consumer pays for the at least one of the plurality of alphanumeric sequences before obtaining access to the content at the least one specific location;

a database for storing a list of the plurality of alphanumeric sequences, wherein the database includes a plurality of tables for monitoring the plurality of alphanumeric sequences;

a management interface for generating the plurality of alphanumeric sequences and assigning a product identifier component to each one of the plurality of alphanumeric sequences; and

an user interface for entering the at least one of the plurality of alphanumeric sequences and obtaining access to the content.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein a period of usage time is assigned to each of the plurality of alphanumeric sequences.

3. The system of claim 1, wherein one of the plurality of tables in the database is a certificate identifier table.

4. The system of claim 1, wherein one of the plurality of tables in the database is a product identifier table.

5. The system of claim 1, wherein one of the plurality of tables in the database is a vendor identifier table.

6. The system of claim 1, wherein one of the plurality of tables in the database is an employee identifier table.

7. The system of claim 1, wherein the plurality of alphanumeric sequences are validated by checking an entered alphanumeric sequence against the list of the plurality of alphanumeric sequences stored in the database.

8. The system of claim 7, wherein the consumer is allowed to access the entertainment content authorized by the entered alphanumeric sequence.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein the consumer is placed in a menu field showing the content accessible by the entered alphanumeric sequence, after the entered alphanumeric sequence is validated by the network.

10. The system of claim 2, wherein the server continually monitors a consumer's access to the content authorized by the entered alphanumeric sequence.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein the server calculates a remaining usage time available for each entered alphanumeric sequence.

12. The system of claim 11, wherein the server prohibits access to the content upon expiration of the period of usage time assigned to the entered alphanumeric sequence.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein the database is updated to indicate that the entered alphanumeric sequence has been fully redeemed and is no longer valid.

14. The system of claim 1, wherein the server allows access to a plurality of specific locations for consumers presenting authenticated certificate identifiers and passwords.

15. The system of claim 1, wherein an alphanumeric sequence in the plurality of alphanumeric sequences is embodied in a card.

16. The system of claim 1, wherein an alphanumeric sequence in the plurality of alphanumeric sequences is embodied in an electronic certificate.

17. The system of claim 16, wherein the electronic certificate is a series of data forming an electronic file transmittable to the consumer over the network.

18. The system of claim 1, wherein the network verifies the consumer's age before allowing access to the content.

19. A system for generating customized media, comprising:

a database for storing content data and a plurality of alphanumeric sequences;

an user interface for selecting content on a computer network, the user interface allowing a consumer to present at least one of the plurality of alphanumeric sequences for accessing the content on the computer network; and

a server for routing the selected content to a management interface, and wherein the management interface generates media onto which selected content is transferred and delivers the media to the consumer.

20. The system of claim 19, wherein the plurality of alphanumeric sequences each include a password component and a certificate identifier component.

21. The system of claim 19, further comprising a network for permitting communication between the server, the database, the management interface, and the user interface.

22. The system of claim 21, wherein the server stores the content for at least one specific location on the network where a period of usage time can be redeemed with at least one of the plurality of alphanumeric sequences, the server allowing the consumer to access the at least one specific location when the at least one of the plurality of alphanumeric sequences is presented to the network, and wherein the consumer pays for the at least one of the plurality of alphanumeric sequences before obtaining access to the content at the least one specific location.

23. The system of claim 22, wherein the management interface generates the plurality of alphanumeric sequences and assigns a product identifier component to each one of the plurality of alphanumeric sequences.

24. The system of claim 23, wherein the database stores a list of the plurality of alphanumeric sequences, and wherein the database includes a plurality of tables for monitoring the plurality of alphanumeric sequences.

25. The system of claim 24, wherein the plurality of tables in the database includes an objects table for storing product selection information.

26. The system of claim 24, wherein the plurality of tables in the database includes an users table for storing user information.

27. The system of claim 24, wherein the plurality of tables in the database includes an orders table for storing order information.

28. A method of distributing access to content over a computer network, comprising:

providing a plurality of alphanumeric sequences, each alphanumeric sequence in the plurality of alphanumeric sequences having a certificate identifier component and a password component;

assigning a specified amount of usage time and a level of content access for each alphanumeric sequence in the plurality of alphanumeric sequences;

storing the plurality of alphanumeric sequences in a database;

indicating to a consumer, on a computer network over a user interface, a choice of entering a personal credit card number or an alphanumeric sequence to obtain access to a level of content;

authenticating an entered alphanumeric sequence by validating the entered alphanumeric sequence against the stored plurality of alphanumeric sequences in the database;

allowing the consumer to access the level of content authorized by the entered alphanumeric sequence; and

placing the consumer in a menu field showing content accessible by the entered alphanumeric sequence.

29. The method of claim 28, further comprising continually monitoring the consumer's access to the level of content authorized by the entered alphanumeric sequence.

30. The method of claim 29, further comprising calculating a remaining amount usage time available for each entered alphanumeric sequence.

31. The method of claim 30, further comprising prohibiting access to the content upon expiration of an amount of usage time assigned to the entered alphanumeric sequence.

32. The method of claim 31, further comprising updating the database to indicate that an alphanumeric sequence has been fully redeemed and is no longer valid.

33. The method of claim 28, further comprising providing a server for maintaining at least one specific electronic address and for storing content at the at least one specific electronic address available to be accessed by a consumer.

34. The method of claim 28, further comprising allowing access to a plurality of specific locations for consumers presenting authenticated certificate identifiers and authenticated passwords.

35. The method of claim 28, wherein the database includes a plurality of tables for monitoring the plurality of alphanumeric sequences.

36. The method of claim 28, further comprising providing a certificate including an alphanumeric sequence to a consumer, wherein the certificate is a series of data forming an electronic file transmittable to the consumer over a computer network.

37. The method of claim 36, further comprising providing the certificate for purchase by the consumer prior to accessing the content over the computer network, wherein the consumer enters the certificate identifier and the password provided on the certificate when accessing the content.

38. The method of claim 28, further comprising verifying a consumer's age before allowing access to the content.

39. A method for generating customized media, comprising:

providing content for customized selection by a consumer entering a valid alphanumeric sequence having at least a certificate identifier component and a password component;

selecting content for order and delivery on a medium;

storing the selected content on a server;

verifying payment for the selected content; and

generating the medium and transmitting the medium to the consumer.

40. The method of claim 39, wherein the medium is an electronic transmission of data over a computer network.

41. The method of claim 39, wherein the medium is a CD-ROM.

42. The method of claim 39, wherein the medium is a DVD.

43. The method of claim 39, wherein the alphanumeric sequence entered by the consumer indicates whether payment is required for selected content.

44. The method of claim 43, further comprising entering payment information if the alphanumeric sequence entered indicates that selected content must be paid for.

45. The method of claim 44, further comprising indicating to a consumer, on a computer network over a user interface, a choice of entering a personal credit card number or an alphanumeric sequence to obtain access to a level of content.

46. The method of claim 39, further comprising verifying a consumer's age before allowing access to the content.
47. The method of claim 39, further comprising assigning a specified amount of usage time and a level of content access for the alphanumeric sequence.
48. The method of claim 39, further comprising providing a plurality of alphanumeric sequences each having a certificate identifier and a password.
49. The method of claim 48, further comprising assigning a specified amount of usage time and a level of content access for each of the plurality of alphanumeric sequences.
50. The method of claim 49, further comprising storing the alphanumeric sequences in a database.
51. The method of claim 50, further comprising providing a user interface to facilitate entry of an alphanumeric sequence by a consumer.
52. The method of claim 51, further comprising authenticating an entered alphanumeric sequence by validating the entered alphanumeric sequence against a list of the alphanumeric sequence stored in the database.
53. The method of claim 52, further comprising placing the consumer in a menu field showing entertainment content accessible by the entered alphanumeric sequence.
54. The method of claim 53, further comprising allowing the consumer access the level of content authorized by the entered alphanumeric sequence.